GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5791
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
SETTING UP OF A TASK FORCE
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create a Task Force to identify the drought and flood prone districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the districts have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any comprehensive programme is likely to be launched by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(f) if so, the details thereof; (g) whether the Government propose to seek the assistance of China and South Africancountries to tackle floods and drought; and (h) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a to h) There is no proposal to set up a Task Force to identify the drought and flood prone districts in the country. However, a High Level Technical Committee under the chairmanship of Professor C H Hanumantha Rao was constituted in 1993 to review theDrought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). Concurrently, a sub-group of the Technical Committee headed by Prof Hanumantha Rao identified 155 drought prone districts in 13 States in the country for coverage under the DPAP. With the recent bifurcation of some of these districts, the number of districts covered under DPAP has now increased to 163. Flood prone districts have not been identified so far. However, the Rashtriya Barh Ayog in its report submitted in the year 1980 had identified 40 million hectares in 22 States and UTs as flood prone areas.

DPAP is a continuing programme with the objective of drought proofing the drought prone areas through integrated watershed approach. Under this approach, a comprehensive treatment of the selected watershed for regenerating the natural resource base will be taken. As such there is no proposal to launch any other comprehensive programme by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

There is no proposal to seek the assistance of China and South African countries to tackle floods and drought.